operations of the Electricity Boards in such a manner as would yield the statutory minimum return of 3%.

Proposals From Foreign Companies in the Power Sector

185. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal have been received from foreign companies in the power generation sector; and

(b) if so, what are the details of such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Proposals for five projects for implementation in the private sector have been received from foreign companies. These are:

(i) Barsingsar Lignite Based Thermal Power Project of 240 MW in Rajasthan from an Australian Consortium.

(ii) Lignite based thermal power project of 210 MW capacity in Neyveli in Tamil Nadu from US based NRI Company.

(iii) Coal based thermal power project of 500 MW capacity at Dubri in Orissa in which US based firms are expected to hold shares.

(iv) Coal based thermal power project of 2340 MW capacity in Ib Valley in Orissa from an US based private company.

(v) Gas based thermal power project of 800 MW capacity in the private sector for which MOU has been arrived at between NTPC and ABB (Asian Brown Boveri).

For proposals at Sl. Nos. (iii) & (iv), the project promoters have signed MOU with Orissa Government.

Development of Photovoltaics as a Source of Energy

186. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have laid emphasis on the development of photovoltaics to find alternative source of energy;

(b) if so, what are the State-wise achievements in this regard during the Sixth and Seventh Plan period so far; and

(c) what targets have been fixed for the Eighth Plan period for each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources have been implementing projects on development and demonstration of solar photovoltaic technology. The State-wise achievements during Sixth & Seventh Plans are given at Annexure.

[*See* Appendix CLXII Annexure No.3]

(c) The Eighth Plan programme has not been finalised.

Planning for a uniform power tariff system in the country

187. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Apex Cost Based Power Tariff Commission and Regional Power Tariff Boards have planned to put SEBs on a sound footing and to evolve a uniform power tariff system throughout the country;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the proposed Commission and Board;

(c) whether the losses of the SEBs are mounting day by day; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what further steps have been taken by Government to tone up the working of SEBs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-